



# Surf's Up: Favorite places to catch waves in Aruba



## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

**SUNDAY:**

**MARRYBELL MADURO**  
SINGER  
6:30 - 8:30pm

**MONDAY:**

**ANGELA FLORES**  
VIOLINIST  
6:30 - 8:30pm

**TUESDAY:**

**JEAN PAUL**  
SAXOPHONIST  
6:30 - 8:30pm

**WEDNESDAY:**

**EDDIE KROON**  
SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm

**MAILLEYN ALVARADO**  
VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm

**KARAOKE** 9:00 - 11:00pm

**THURSDAY:**

**MARRYBELL MADURO**  
SINGER  
6:30 - 8:30pm

**FRIDAY:**

**RICKY THOMAS**  
GUITARIST  
7:00 - 9:00pm

**SATURDAY:**

**EDDIE KROON**  
SINGER  
4:00 - 6:00pm

**ANGELA FLORES**  
VIOLINIST  
6:30 - 8:30pm



**WATER'S EDGE**  
RESTAURANT & BAR



**costa linda**  
beach resort

**Happy Hour**  
12 - 1 / 4 - 6 / 9 - 10

**PREMIUM BRANDS**



# Texas education board approves optional Bible-infused curriculum for elementary schools

By NADIA LATHAN and JAMIE STENGLE

Associated Press/Report for America

**AUSTIN, Texas (AP)** — Texas' education board voted Friday to allow Bible-infused teachings in elementary schools, joining other Republican-led states that pushed this year to give religion a larger presence in public classrooms.

The curriculum adopted by the Texas State Board of Education, which is controlled by elected Republicans, is optional for schools to adopt, but they will receive additional funding if they do so. The materials could appear in classroom as early as next school year. Republican Gov. Greg Abbott has voiced support for the lesson plans, which were provided by the state's education agency that oversees the more than 5 million students in Texas public schools.

Parents and teachers who opposed the curriculum said the lessons will alienate students of other faith backgrounds.

Supporters argued the Bible is a core feature of American history and that teaching it will enrich students' learning.

The new Texas curriculum follows Republican-led efforts in neighboring states



A Texas flag is displayed in an elementary school in Murphy, Texas, Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020.

Associated Press.

to give religion more of a presence in public schools. In Oklahoma, the state's education chief has ordered a copy of the Bible in every classroom, while Louisiana wants to make all of the state's public school classrooms post the Ten Commandments beginning next year.

With the new curriculum, Texas would be the first state to introduce Bible lessons in schools in this manner, according to Matthew Patrick Shaw, an assistant professor of public policy and education at Vanderbilt University.

## Creating Bible-infused lessons

The Texas Education Agency, which oversees public education for more than 5 million students statewide, created its own instruction materials after a law passed in 2023 by the GOP-controlled Legislature required the agency to do so. The lesson plans were publicly released this spring.

The material draws on lessons from Christianity more than any other religion in the proposed reading and language arts modules for kindergarten through fifth grade, which critics say would alienate students from different faith backgrounds and potentially vi-

olate the First Amendment. "This curriculum is not age-appropriate or subject matter appropriate in the way that it presents these Bible stories," said Amanda Tyler, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty. Children who would read the material, she said, "are simply too young to tell the difference between what is a faith claim and what is a matter of fact."

More than 100 people testified at a board meeting this week that rung with emotion from parents, teachers and advocates. Supporters of the curriculum argued

that the Bible is a core feature of American history and teaching it will enrich students' learning.

"It is said that there are close to 300 common-day phrases that actually come from the Bible," said Mary Castle, director of government relations for Texas Values, a right-leaning advocacy group. "So students will benefit from being able to understand a lot of these references that are in literature and have a way to be able to comprehend them."

## A narrow early vote

The 15-member board consists of 11 Republicans and four Democrats. It signaled support for the materials in a 8-7 preliminary vote on Wednesday.

One of the board members is a Republican who was appointed to the board just weeks ago by Republican Gov. Greg Abbott to temporarily fill a vacant seat. Days after that appointment, a Democrat who ran unopposed was elected to fill that same board seat starting next year.

Abbott has publicly supported the instruction materials.

Whether the lesson plans will be considered constitutional is up in the air if the curriculum passes, Shaw said. □

# Matt Gaetz says he won't return to Congress next year after withdrawing name for attorney general



Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., speaks during the Conservative Political Action Conference, CPAC 2024, at the National Harbor, in Oxon Hill, Md., Feb. 23, 2024.

Associated Press

By FARNOUSH AMIRI  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Former Rep. Matt Gaetz said Friday

that he will not be returning to Congress after withdrawing his name from consideration to be attorney general under President-elect Donald Trump amid growing allegations of sexual misconduct. "I'm still going to be in the fight, but it's going to be from a new perch. I do not intend to join the 119th Congress," Gaetz told conservative commentator Charlie Kirk, adding that he has "some other goals in life that I'm eager to pursue with my wife and my family."

The announcement comes a day after Gaetz, a Florida Republican, stepped aside

from the Cabinet nomination process amid growing fallout from federal and House Ethics investigations that cast doubt on his ability to be confirmed as the nation's chief federal law enforcement officer. The 42-year-old has vehemently denied the allegations against him.

Gaetz's nomination as attorney general had stunned many career lawyers inside the Justice Department, but reflected Trump's desire to place a loyalist in a department he has marked for retribution following the criminal cases against him.

Hours after Gaetz withdrew,

Trump nominated Pam Bondi, the former Florida attorney general, who would come to the job with years of legal work under her belt and that other trait Trump prizes above all: loyalty.

It's unclear what's next for Gaetz, who is no longer a member of the House. He surprised colleagues by resigning from Congress the same day that Trump nominated him for attorney general. Some speculated he could still be sworn into office for another two-year term on Jan. 3, given that he had just won reelection earlier this month. □



# Northern California gets record rain and heavy snow. Many have been in the dark for days in Seattle

By **GODOFREDO A. VÁSQUEZ, JANIE HAR and CHRISTOPHER WEBER**  
Associated Press

**FORESTVILLE, Calif. (AP) —**

A major storm continued to drop heavy snow and record rain Friday as it moved through Northern California, closing roads and prompting evacuations in some areas, after killing two people and knocking out power to hundreds of thousands in the Pacific Northwest.

Forecasters warned the risk of flash flooding and rockslides would continue, and scores of flights were canceled at San Francisco's airport.

In Washington state, more than 185,000 people mostly in the Seattle area remained without power as crews worked to clear streets of electrical lines, fallen branches and debris. Utility officials said the outages, which began Tuesday, could last into Saturday.

Moderate rain was streaming across southern Oregon and northern California on Friday morning, with showers over coastal Washington and heavier snow across eastern Washington, Oregon and Idaho, according to the National Weather Service's Weather Prediction Center.

Gale warnings were issued off Washington, Oregon and California and high wind warnings were in effect across parts of northern California and Oregon on Friday. Winter storm warnings were also in effect for parts of the California Cascades and Sierra Nevada. Preliminary totals for the storm showed that 20 inches (51 centimeters) of snow had fallen in Soda Springs, California and Galane Blaine, Idaho, between Tuesday and Friday mornings, and 17.4 inches (44 centimeters) of rain had fallen in Venado, California, according to the center.

Meanwhile on the East Coast, where rare wildfires have raged, New York and New Jersey welcomed



**Permit Sonoma Director Tennis Wick crosses a mudslide to inspect a home as heavy rains fall near Healdsburg in unincorporated Sonoma County, Calif., on Friday, Nov. 22, 2024.**

Associated Press.

much-needed rain that could ease the fire danger for the rest of the year.

Heavy snow was falling Friday in northeastern Pennsylvania, including the Pocono Mountains, forcing a raft of school closures and delays. Higher elevations reported up to 17 inches (43 centimeters), with lower amounts in valley cities like Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. More than 100,000 customers in 10 counties lost power, while the state transportation department imposed speed restrictions on some highways.

Despite the mess, the precipitation was expected to help ease drought conditions in a state that's seen an exceptionally dry fall.

"It won't end the drought, it's not going to be a drought buster, but it's definitely going to help when all this melts," said Bryan Greenblatt, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Binghamton, New York.

The National Weather Service extended a flood watch into Saturday for areas north of San Francisco as the region was inundated by this season's strongest atmospheric river a long plume of moisture that

forms over an ocean and flows through the sky over land.

Flooding and road closures were reported in the North Bay, and the weather service warned residents throughout the area to expect disruptions during the morning and afternoon commutes on Friday. Rain rates have increased and shifted southward along the San Francisco Peninsula to the Santa Cruz Mountains with rain gauges reporting a few tenths to 1 to 2 inches (2.5 to 5 centimeters) so far, the weather service said early Friday.

In Humboldt County, the sheriff's office issued evacuation orders and warnings for people living near the Eel River, which is forecast to break its banks, and urged residents to prepare for storm impacts throughout the week. Flooding closed Highway 1, also known as the Pacific Coast Highway, in Mendocino County north of Point Arena near the Garcia River and there was no estimate for when it would reopen, according to the California Department of Transportation.

The system roared ashore Tuesday as a "bomb cy-

clone," which occurs when a cyclone intensifies rapidly. It unleashed fierce winds that toppled trees onto roads, vehicles and homes, killing at least two people in Washington.

Communities in Washington opened warming centers offering free internet and device charging. Some medical clinics closed because of power outages.

"I've been here since the mid-'80s. I haven't seen anything like this," Trish Bloor, a city of Issaquah official, said while surveying damaged homes.

Up to 16 inches (about 41 centimeters) of rain was forecast in southwestern Oregon and California's northern counties through Friday.

Santa Rosa saw 6.5 inches (16.5 centimeters) of rain in the last 24 hours, marking the wettest day on record since 1998.

The Sonoma County Airport, in the wine country north of San Francisco, got more than 11 inches (28 centimeters) within the last 48 hours and the unincorporated town of Venado had about 12.7 inches (32.3 centimeters) in the same period.

Flash flooding, rockslides and debris flows were possible, especially where hillsides were loosened by recent wildfires, officials warned. Scott Rowe, a hydrologist with the weather service in Sacramento, said so far the ground has been able to absorb the rain in areas where the Park Fire burned this summer.

"It's not necessarily how much rain falls; it's how fast the rain falls," Rowe said.

A winter storm watch was in place for the northern Sierra Nevada above 3,500 feet (1,070 meters), with 15 inches (38 centimeters) of snow possible over two days. Wind gusts could top 75 mph (121 kph) in mountain areas, forecasters said. In California, there were reports of more than 15,000 power outages on Friday morning.

Authorities limited vehicle traffic on part of northbound Interstate 5 between Redding and Yreka due to snow, according to California's Department of Transportation. Officials also shut down a 2-mile (3.2-kilometer) stretch of the scenic Avenue of the Giants, named for its towering coast redwoods, due to flooding.

More than 200 flights were delayed and about 50 were canceled Friday morning at San Francisco International Airport, according to tracking service FlightAware.

The Northeast, meanwhile, got a much-needed shot of precipitation, providing a bit of respite in a region plagued by wildfires and dwindling water supplies. More than 2 inches (5 centimeters) was expected by Saturday morning north of New York City, with snow mixed in at higher elevations.

Weather service meteorologist Brian Ciemnecki in New York City, which this week saw its first drought warning in 22 years, said "any rainfall is going to be significant" but the storm won't be enough to end the drought. □



## Hungary's Orbán vows to disregard international arrest warrant for Netanyahu

By JUSTIN SPIKE  
Associated Press

**BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP)** — Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán on Friday denounced the International Criminal Court's issuing of an arrest warrant for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, saying he would defy it by inviting him to Hungary.

In comments to state radio, Orbán accused the ICC, the world's top war crimes court based in The Hague, of "interfering in an ongoing conflict for political purposes," saying the decision to issue the warrant for Netanyahu over his conduct of the war in Gaza undermined international law and escalated tensions.

Member countries of the ICC, such as Hungary, are required to detain suspects facing a warrant if they set foot on their soil, but the court has no way to enforce that. The ICC issued the arrest warrant on Thurs-



Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, left, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attend a press conference after their meeting in Jerusalem, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2019.

Associated Press.

day for Netanyahu as well as for his former defense minister and Hamas' military chief, accusing them of crimes against human-

ity in connection with the 13-month war in Gaza.

The warrants said there was reason to believe Netanyahu and former Defense

Minister Yoav Gallant used "starvation as a method of warfare" by restricting humanitarian aid and intentionally targeted civilians in

Israel's campaign against Hamas in Gaza charges Israeli officials deny.

In his comments Friday, Orbán, a close Netanyahu ally, called the arrest warrant "outrageously impudent" and "cynical." He said he would invite Netanyahu to Hungary later Friday and vowed to disregard the warrant if the invitation is accepted.

"We will defy this decision, and it will have no consequences for him," Orbán said. Hungarian Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó earlier criticized the ICC's warrant as "absurd."

Israel and its top ally, the United States, are not members of the court. But other Israeli allies, including some of its close European friends, are put in an awkward position by the warrants. Several, including France, welcomed the court's decision and signaled they might arrest Netanyahu if he visited. □

## South Korea says Russia supplied air defense missiles to North Korea in return for its troops

By HYUNG-JIN KIM and KIM TONG-HYUNG  
Associated Press

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)** — Russia has supplied air defense missile systems to North Korea in exchange for sending its troops to support Russia's war efforts against Ukraine, a top South Korean official said Friday.

The U.S., South Korea and Ukraine say North Korea sent more than 10,000 troops to Russia in October, some of whom have recently begun engaging in combat on the front lines. North Korea's troop deployment threatens to escalate the war, and what Russia could give to the North in return has been a

source of rampant international speculation.

The most alarming development for South Korea and the U.S. would be Russia transferring sophisticated weapons technology that can enhance North Korea's nuclear-capable missiles targeting its rivals. Many experts say, though, that it is unlikely Russia would do this in the initial stage of the North's troop deployment.

Shin Wonsik, national security adviser for South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, told an SBS TV program Friday that South Korea has found Russia provided missiles and other equipment to help it reinforce its air defense network for Pyongyang, the capital. Shin didn't say what specific missiles Russia gave to North Korea.

Lee Illwoo, an expert with the Korea Defense Network in South Korea, said that Russia has likely sent

S-400 long-range surface-to-air missiles, launchers and ground-based radar systems. He said that North Korea is capable of building shorter-range surface-to-air missiles on its own.

The S-400 missile, with a range of 400 kilometers (250 miles), is considered one of Russia's most advanced anti-aircraft weapons. But Lee questioned how significantly it can boost Pyongyang's air defense, saying Russian air defense systems have failed to effectively deal with Ukrainian drone assaults.

Many observers say North Korea has likely felt the urgent need to boost its air defense capabilities after it last month accused South Korea of flying drones to scatter propaganda leaflets over Pyongyang. North Korea threatened to take military action if leaflets were again dropped. South Korea's military has refused to confirm whether

or not it was behind the alleged drone flights.

Kim Dae Young, a military expert at the Korea Research Institute for National Strategy, said it's possible that the air defense systems North Korea acquired from Russia could include counter-drone equipment. Kim said that Pyongyang's outdated air defense system would need years of improvement and potentially huge external help to cope with the superior air forces of South Korea and the United States.

Shin said Russia has also appeared to have given economic assistance to North Korea and various military technologies, including those needed for the North's efforts to build a reliable space-based surveillance system.

Shin didn't say whether Russia has already transferred sensitive nuclear and missile technologies to North Korea. □



Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un pose for a photo during a signing ceremony of the new partnership in Pyongyang, North Korea, on June 19, 2024.

Associated Press.



## Brazilian police formally accused Bolsonaro of an attempted coup. What comes next?

By **GABRIELA SÁ PESSOA** and  
**MAURICIO SAVARESE**  
Associated Press

**SAO PAULO (AP)** — Police have formally accused Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro and 36 others of attempting a coup to keep the right-wing leader in office after his electoral defeat in 2022. Their allegations threaten to torpedo Bolsonaro's hopes of returning to politics. Brazil's Supreme Court said Friday that police findings were delivered to Justice Alexandre de Moraes, who next week will relay them to Prosecutor-General Paulo Gonet. He will decide whether to formally charge Bolsonaro or toss the investigation. Bolsonaro told the news website Metropoles on Thursday that he is waiting for his lawyer to review the police report, which is reportedly about 700 pages long, but that he would fight the case. He dismissed the investigation as the result of "creativity." The former president denies that he tried to stay in office after his narrow electoral defeat in 2022 to leftist President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. Bolsonaro has since faced a series of legal threats. That police are seeking for-



**Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro prepares to speak to the press in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, June 30, 2023, the day that judges ruled him ineligible to run for political office until 2030 after concluding that he abused his power and cast unfounded doubts on the country's electronic voting system.**

mal charges indicates the investigation found evidence of "a crime and its author," and it is likely there are legal grounds for the prosecutor-general to file charges, said Eloísa Machado de Almeida, a law professor at Getulio Vargas Foundation, a university in Sao Paulo.

On Friday, the attorney for Bolsonaro's former right hand, Lt. Col. Mauro Cid, said in a live television interview that his client had informed the Supreme Court that Bolsonaro was aware of the coup plot. "The then-president knew it all. Actually, he led this

organization," Cid's attorney, Cezar Bitencourt, told network GloboNews. Just minutes later, Bitencourt partially retracted his statement. "I didn't say Bolsonaro knew it all. 'All' is a lot. He was evidently aware of some things." Police said the Supreme

Associated Press.

Court agreed to the release all 37 names in the police report "to avoid the dissemination of incorrect news." Among them are dozens of former and current Bolsonaro aides, including: Gen. Walter Braga Netto, who was his running mate in the 2022 campaign; former Army commander Gen. Paulo Sérgio Nogueira de Oliveira; Valdemar Costa Neto, the chairman of Bolsonaro's Liberal Party; and his veteran former adviser, Gen. Augusto Heleno. Braga Netto's lawyers said they would wait to formally receive the police documents before making any comments. The retired general shared their statement on X late Thursday. Bolsonaro is already accused separately of smuggling diamond jewelry into Brazil and directing Lt. Col. Cid to falsify his and others' COVID-19 vaccination statuses. Bolsonaro has denied those charges. Another probe found he abused his authority by casting doubt on Brazil's electoral system, and judges on the top electoral court barred him from running again until 2030. □

## Bulgaria and Romania 'one step closer' to full membership in Schengen zone, Hungary says

By **JUSTIN SPIKE**  
Associated Press

**BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP)** — Bulgaria and Romania could become full members of Europe's Schengen travel zone starting at the beginning of 2025, Hungarian officials said on Friday. The two Balkan countries joined the European Union in 2007 but were not integrated into the borderless Schengen zone until March, when border checks were lifted from maritime and air travel. Land border checks remained in place due to opposition primarily from Austria, which has long blocked Schengen entry for the two countries over illegal migration concerns. But following a meeting of the Austrian, Bulgarian,

Hungarian and Romanian interior ministers in Budapest on Friday, Austria lifted its opposition, paving the way for a final decision by a summit of EU interior ministers in December. Hungary's Interior Minister Sándor Pintér said Friday that Romania and Bulgaria, which both have borders with countries outside the EU, are now "one step closer to becoming full Schengen members." He added that there was a "clear opportunity" to finalize the process by the end of the year, and that the countries would need to jointly send at least 100 border guards to the frontier between Bulgaria and Turkey. EU Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson, who

was also present at the meeting, said in a video posted on X: "This is a great day to achieve the full freedom for all the citizens of Bulgaria and Romania into the Schengen area, and I'm very happy today." The Schengen Area was established in 1985. Before Bulgaria and Romania's partial admission, it was comprised of 23 of the 27 EU member countries, along with Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. Around 3.5 million people cross an internal border each day. Ursula von der Leyen, the head of the EU's executive commission, wrote on X that the two neighboring countries "belong fully to the Schengen area."

"I welcome the positive outcome of informal discussions in Budapest today

... Let 2025 see Schengen become stronger," she said. □



**From left: Yordanka Chobanova, the head of the Representation of the European Commission in Bulgaria, Maria Gabriel, deputy Prime Minister, Nikolay Denkov, Prime Minister, Jesus Caballero, Sofia Airport's CEO, press the red button during an official opening of Schengen borders by air, at Sofia airport, Bulgaria, Sunday, March 31, 2024.**

Associated Press.



# NATO and Ukraine to hold emergency talks after Russia's attack with new hypersonic missile

By ILLIA NOVIKOV and  
VOLODYMYR YURCHUK  
Associated Press

**KYIV, Ukraine (AP)** — NATO and Ukraine will hold emergency talks Tuesday after Russia attacked a central city with an experimental, hypersonic ballistic missile that escalated the nearly 33-month-old war.

The conflict is "entering a decisive phase," Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk said Friday, and "taking on very dramatic dimensions." Ukraine's parliament canceled a session as security was tightened following Thursday's Russian strike on a military facility in the city of Dnipro.

In a stark warning to the West, President Vladimir Putin said in a nationally televised speech that the attack with the intermediate-range Oreshnik missile was in retaliation for Kyiv's use of U.S. and British longer-range missiles capable of striking deeper into Russian territory.

Putin said Western air defense systems would be powerless to stop the new missile.

Ukrainian military officials said the missile that hit Dnipro had reached a speed of Mach 11 and carried six nonnuclear warheads each releasing six submunitions.

Speaking Friday to military and weapons industries officials, Putin said Russia is launching production of the Oreshnik.

"No one in the world has such weapons," he said with a thin smile. "Sooner or later other leading countries will also get them. We are aware that they are under development."

But he added, "we have this system now. And this is important."

Testing the missile will continue, "including in combat, depending on the situation and the character of security threats created for Russia," Putin said, noting there is "a stockpile of such systems ready for use."

Putin said that while it isn't an intercontinental mis-



**Russian Presidential Aide Aleksei Dyumin, left, Russian Defense Minister Andrei Belousov, second left, the head of Russian state space corporation Roscosmos Yuri Borisov, third right, and other wait for the meeting of Russian President Vladimir Putin and the leadership of the Russian Ministry of Defense, representatives of the military-industrial complex and developers of missile systems at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, Friday, Nov. 22, 2024.**

sile, it's so powerful that the use of several of them fitted with conventional warheads in one attack could be as devastating as a strike with strategic or nuclear weapons.

Gen. Sergei Karakayev, head of Russia's Strategic Missile Forces, said the Oreshnik could reach targets across Europe and be fitted with nuclear or conventional warheads, echoing Putin's claim that even with conventional warheads, "the massive use of the weapon would be comparable in effect to the use of nuclear weapons."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov kept up Russia's bellicose tone on Friday, blaming "the reckless decisions and actions of Western countries" in supplying weapons to Ukraine to strike Russia.

"The Russian side has clearly demonstrated its capabilities, and the contours of further retaliatory actions in the event that our concerns were not taken into account have also been quite clearly outlined," he said.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, widely seen

as having the warmest relations with the Kremlin in the European Union, echoed Moscow's talking points, suggesting the use of U.S.-supplied weapons in Ukraine likely requires direct American involvement.

"These are rockets that are fired and then guided to a target via an electronic system, which requires the world's most advanced technology and satellite communications capability," Orbán said on state radio. "There is a strong assumption ... that these missiles cannot be guided without the assistance of American personnel."

Orbán cautioned against underestimating Russia's responses, emphasizing that the country's recent modifications to its nuclear deployment doctrine should not be dismissed as a "bluff." "It's not a trick... there will be consequences," he said.

Separately in Kyiv, Czech Foreign Minister Jan Lipavský called Thursday's missile strike an "escalatory step and an attempt of the Russian dictator to scare the population of Ukraine and to scare the population of Europe."

At a news conference with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha, Lipavský also expressed his full support for delivering the necessary additional air defense systems to protect Ukrainian civilians from the "heinous attacks."

He underlined that the Czech Republic will impose no limits on the use of its weapons and equipment given to Ukraine.

Three lawmakers from Ukraine's parliament, the Verkhovna Rada, confirmed that Friday's previously scheduled session was called off due to the ongoing threat of Russian missiles targeting government buildings in central Kyiv.

In addition, there also was a recommendation to limit the work of all commercial offices and nongovernmental organizations "in that perimeter, and local residents were warned of the increased threat," said lawmaker Mykyta Poturaiev, who added this is not the first time such a threat has been received. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's office continued to work in compliance with standard security mea-

sures, a spokesperson said. Ukraine's Main Intelligence Directorate said the Oreshnik missile, whose name in Russian means "hazelnut tree," was fired from the Kapustin Yar 4th Missile Test Range in Russia's Astrakhan region, and flew 15 minutes before striking Dnipro.

Test launches of a similar missile were conducted in October 2023 and June 2024, the directorate said. The Pentagon confirmed the missile was a new, experimental type of intermediate-range missile based on its RS-26 Rubezh intercontinental ballistic missile. Thursday's attack struck the Pivdenmash plant that built ICBMs when Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union. The military facility is located about 4 miles (6 1/2 kilometers) southwest of the center of Dnipro, a city of about 1 million that is Ukraine's fourth-largest and a key hub for military supplies and humanitarian aid, and is home to one of the country's largest hospitals for treating wounded soldiers from the front before their transfer to Kyiv or abroad.

The stricken area was cordoned off and out of public view. With no fatalities reported from the attack, Dnipro residents resorted to dark humor on social media, mostly focused on the missile's name, Oreshnik.

Elsewhere in Ukraine, Russia struck a residential district of Sumy overnight with Iranian-designed Shahed drones, killing two people and injuring 13, the regional administration said..

Ukraine's Suspilne media, quoting Sumy regional head Volodymyr Artiukh, said the drones were stuffed with shrapnel elements. "These weapons are used to destroy people, not to destroy objects," said Artiukh, according to Suspilne. Associated Press journalists Lorne Cook in Brussels, Samya Kullab in Kyiv, Dasha Litvinova in Tallinn, Estonia, and Justin Spike in Budapest, Hungary, contributed. □



## The district of Savaneta: The capital before Oranjestad

**(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.**

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499. This was the beginning of the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However,

Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" trees on the island, which were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805) During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawakan and Spanish community that was living on the island. This was the beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curaçao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch had often forced the indigenous community to work for them. In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surrendered the islands to the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and business



Commandeursbaai (Commander's Bay) at Savaneta

men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially became the island's first capital.

However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.

### How Savaneta got its name

The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said that when the Spanish climbed a hill called Yara, they saw that the area was mostly open and had no big trees. In Spanish, such a land area is called a "sabana".

Because of its land surface, Sava-

neta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabitants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th. □

**Source: Historia di Savaneta (History of Savaneta) by Adolf "Dufi" Kock.**



Alonso de Ojeda



"Quebracho" (Kibrahacha) tree; used to make dye and paint



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## Surf's Up: Favorite places to catch waves in Aruba



**ORANJESTAD** – Whether you are a salt-seasoned surfer looking for a thrill, or just looking to wet your toes in a little ocean adventure, Aruba has amazing places to learn and practice surfing! Although more known for the calmer waters of Palm Beach, Eagle Beach and Mangel Halto, Aruba also has some special places to thrill your senses.

Because of strong winds and breezes, Aruba is per-

fect for wind and kite surfing. You will surely notice kites in the air as you drive around the wilder, rougher areas on Aruba's east side.

There are plenty of surf shop rentals to help you with your gear, and there are also a lot of tutors if you're looking to try for the first time and need a little help. These can be found around the island, and will surely come in hand if you're wanting to try a new experience!

With that said, here are Aruba's favorite surf spots!

### Andicuri

Andicuri is recognized as the best place for body boarding. Because of the rough waves, this beach is better suited for those with more experience in surfing. However, the beach with two bluffs – one on each side – is worth a visit, if only to watch the exciting show presented by the surfers.

To go to Andicuri, you will need a 4x4 vehicle and drive from the ex-Natural Bridge Center. Alternatively, you can make it an adventure by going on a hike! The scenery is unique and beautiful on its own.

Reaching Andicuri Beach can be an adventure in itself, as it can be difficult to find and is only accessible by 4x4 vehicle or walking from the ex-Natural Bridge center, but the impressive scenery makes it all worthwhile!

### Arashi

Arashi, a beach located close to the California Lighthouse, is a good spot for learning and having fun – if you're lucky! The waves at Arashi are usually calm, but with just the right weather, a swell forms attracting all the local surfers to the area.

### Boca Grandi

Boca Grandi is at the most southern spot in Aruba, and is a popular spot with experienced surfers. Close to the famous Red Anchor and our beloved Sunrise City –

San Nicolas, a trip to Boca Grandi can easily turn into an all-day trip to this area of the island. With a beautiful beach (although it is not allowed to swim here, because of strong currents), you can enjoy a relaxing time combing the beach for driftwood, coral, and little crabs and snails.

### Hadicurari

Known locally as Fisherman's Hut, here is where you will find most of the action for surfers in Aruba. With a variety of surf shops and schools in this area, you will find it easy to get in on the action. Hadicurari is also the site of the Aruba Hi Winds World Challenge, which takes place usually in June/July, and it is the largest windsurfing competition in the Caribbean!

### Malmok

If you're a beginner, this is your spot. There are also various shops to rent gear and receive lessons, facilitating learning and just trying out a new experience. The beach is also popular for paddleboarding and other watersport activities.





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## Craving a late-night snack? We got you covered!



(Oranjestad)—After a night out it's custom to grab yourself a late-night snack on the road. Here in Aruba, there are dozens of food trucks that you can visit to enjoy a late-night bite. Here are a few that can be found in the down town/hotel area.

### Chalo burger

Chalo burger is a favorite among locals, and it's due to its popularity that it has branched out to different parts on the island. One of its main locations is in Palm Beach, near the hotel area. Chalo offers a variety of fast-food meals, like hamburgers, hotdogs, loaded fries

and more! A popular dish among locals is the Salchipapa: loaded fries with sausages, cheese and a mix of sweet and savory sauce. Perfect for those late-night cravings!

Chalo is open Wednesdays through Mondays from 7pm to 12 am (Fridays till 1am), and is located at Palm Beach 178 (a little past the roundabout near the Piazza Gianni's). Other Locations include Tanki Leendert and Savaneta.

### Julio's Corner

Situated in a nice little corner off the highway, Julio's Corner has a



huge menu comprised of different dishes and snacks, all made with a Venezuelan twist! From arepa's to chicken wings, to pizzas and burgers, Julio's Corner has it all to satisfy your taste! Editor's choice for what to get at Julio's Corner is the quesadilla, which comes with a side of fries.

Julio's Corner is open Mondays through Saturday from 6pm to 2am (Fridays and Saturdays up to 4am), and is located in the parking lot of the Eagle Bowling Palace, right on the other side of the road from the Sasaki gas station.

### Habibi Express

Habibi Express is a Lebanese food truck stand, one of very few food trucks on the island to sell Mediterranean food. Located right at the entrance of The Local Market near the cruise ship port, here you can fill your stomach (and heart) with a variety of options like shawarmas, doners, kapsalons and more, all 100% halal. When asked, the chef there recommends all foodies to try their lamb shawarma, as it's a favorite among guests. Habibi Express is open every day from 5pm to 12am. While you're there, how about a picture with the genie? ☐



## Aruba to me



**ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.**

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: [news@arubato-day.com](mailto:news@arubato-day.com) and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

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## Aruba's most family-friendly beaches

(Oranjestad)—One of the biggest concerns that parents have when travelling with their children is a guarantee of their safety and healthy enjoyment. Therefore, we thought it would be a great help to travelling parents to list off some of the most family-friendly beaches around the island.

**Baby Beach in San Nicolas**  
Baby Beach is one Aruba's most popular and visited beaches, and for good reason: This sandy and quiet lagoon is a great place for parents to sit back and relax while their children play in the shallow shores of the beach. Beside the relaxing atmosphere, there are also several services that may accommodate your stay,

like a parking lot, sun tent rentals, chairs, bathrooms and a snack bar right at the far left of the beach.

### Mangel Halto in Pos Chiquito

Mangel Halto is situated in the back streets of the Pos Chiquito city. Though there are several stairs on the sides of the beach cliff leading you down, the best spot for families to hang out is across the bridge, passed the mangrove trees near the entrance sign. Here, there are small and big palapas, perfect for big and small families to set up their belongings. In this area, the shore is also shallow, falling right around your knee before slowly getting deeper: perfect for kids to safely play.

### Eagle Beach/Palm Beach in the hotel area

Yet another highly popular beach site, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the white sand. Because they are near the low-rise and high-rise hotel areas, these beaches are the most accessible for visitors on foot. These beaches also offer many palapas free to use, but you can also rent chairs and tents. Much like Baby Beach, these sites are one of the best beaches for your children to play and build sand castles.

### Boca Catalina in Malmok

Boca Catalina is a small bay beach near the Malmok beach area further down



the hotel areas. Though it may not be a very sandy beach, it is relatively quiet and tranquil. This is a great place for family to lay down a big blanket and have a little picnic. This is also one of the best places to snorkel, as this area is filled with little fish and corals, even close to the shore.

### Palm Island

Ok, this one is technically not a beach, but a must-visit attraction for family fun. This small water park oasis is located further down the Mangel Halto Beach and is reachable by boat. This water park offers 6 hours of fun activities, food, drinks, and a chance to see pink flamingoes up close! □

## Episode CLIII - 153 - Our Beloved Rock

**Etnia Nativa facilitates cultural awareness, education and safeguards Aruba's heritage by elevating each reader into an island keeper state of mind. Be encouraged to discover in every episode the true native effect, live it, get more reasons to love Aruba behind the beaches and liven up your stay in an incredibly wonderful way.**

Our island is a tiny tourist destination with a fragile ecosystem but thousands of years of history but for us "the native people" Aruba is our beloved rock or "Nos Baranca Stimá" in our local language Papiamentu.

Yes, you read that right: this small island has thousands

of years of history since approximately 2,500 or 3,000 years ago, agro-potters from the Amazon-Orinoco river basins began their journey to our region, some by land, others by through the rivers and settled along the Atlantic coast, gradually entering the open sea perfecting their canoes and thus reaching the Caribbean Sea.

These were agro-pottery, Arawak-speaking rainforest hunters and farmers who colonized the northern and coastal areas of the South American continent, including almost all the islands of the Caribbean Sea. They displaced the former Paleolithic people who presided them. During

the Paleolithic era, these islands, including Aruba, were covered with vegetation, Prosopis forests and the coastline had a dense mangrove jungle. Aruba was an island that provided abundant hunting and fishing possibilities.

It was these first agro-potter inhabitants who had introduced an agricultural technique of slash-and-burn tropical forests farming. Method known as land clearing for agricultural purposes, associated with the cultivation of roots and tubers such as cassava, yams, sweet potatoes and some varieties of bananas and plantains etc. There were also many seeds that could be ground into flour for the production of their main staple such as arepas, cachapas and ayacas, pan bati, funchi etc.

These Arubans, the descendants of tropical forests farmers of South American who reached our islands, who became the legendary Caquetio tribe.

It was the Caquetios who received the Spaniards



upon their arrival, who by then had already constituted an organized society that responded to the main chief or cacique who lived on Aruba and the mainland. The story mentions his frequent visits to this part of his territorial influence, (our episode 143).

The Caquetios had a sociocultural units based on kinship and structured according to age and sex, without many economic, political or religious reasons for the differentiation of social status. Social controls were based on inheritance rights and obligations except in cases of military activities that were under the temporary leadership of special chiefs.

Their well of technology and agricultural surplus productions allowed the villages to remain in the same place for many years. They were sustained by a more

adequate and reliable food supply, including potatoes beans, peanuts tail corn, maize, squash, cassava, vegetables and fruits, as well as the riches of the mangrove forests and the Caribbean Sea. Our beloved Rock is how the Caquetios referred to Aruba in their language. If you love Aruba its origins and its cultural heritage, be part of the exclusive visitors of Etnia Nativa: a cozy museum/home.

Etnia Nativa a private residential houses collections of native art, archaeological artifacts and historic furniture, while the facilities themselves are the result of the transformation of recycled materials.

Meet Anthony Croes, our columnist at his home! Book your visit Whatsapp + 297 592 2702- or mail: etnianaativa03@gmail.com





**Article by: Etnia Nativa**  
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## Meet Aruba's biggest hero Boy Ecury

(Oranjestad)—This past May 4th, Aruba as well as The Netherlands commemorated those who sadly perished during the Second World War. As is known around the globe, this chapter in world history is one of the most tragic yet, and many soldiers and rebels have died on the frontline during this time.

One of those rebels who have fought against the Nazi regime, was an Aruban named Segundo Jorge Adelberto "Boy" Ecury. Born in Aruba on April 23rd, 1922, Boy spent his childhood on the island, before being sent to The Netherlands by his father when he was 15 years old to continue his studies abroad. This was in 1937, three years before WWII



broke out.

During the war, he actively participated in the rebellion in The Netherlands against the Nazi regime, but his rebellious streak and constant drive to fight for justice began even before the war broke out. Being a person of color with a Haitian heritage living in The Netherlands made him vulnerable to discrimination, and this inspired him to be an activist, to stand up and fight against discrimination and oppression.

After seeing the horrific bombings of Rotterdam firsthand, he decided to join the resistance. At the same time, he was still studying and living with family in Tilburg. It was there where he met people who printed and distributed the rebellion newspaper. This would be the first of three rebellion groups that he would join throughout his 4-year service to the resistance.

Boy's primary task as member of the group was to dis-



tract the German soldiers while others ran into hiding into alleyways. This he was able to do because of his skin color and confronting demeanor. Boy also participated in the multiple sabotaging operations against the German military occupying The Netherlands. These included bombings on German military trucks and trains. The group also helped people go into hiding, as well as opened fire against allies of the Nazi regime. In these operations, Boy really stood out for his cold bloodedness.

In 1943, he received a notice to be placed for work in Germany. This he refused, of course, and went into hiding using multiple addresses in multiple cities. Because he was a wanted man, he of

course could not continue to be active as a rebel. However, stubborn and naturally rebellious as he was, he always tried to join in on the operations regardless.

In 1944, after his friend Luis de Lannoy, a fellow rebel from Curacao, was arrested and executed, he moved to Delft, where he joined his third and last group in Rotterdam. During this time, he wrote a goodbye letter for his family, possibly knowing the risks of him being active again in the big cities. Eventually, he proved himself right. On November 5th, 1944, Boy Ecury was arrested by German soldiers. He was placed in the "Oranjehotel" prison in Scheveningen, The Hague, where he was questioned. Despite being given



away by an acquaintance, he himself never gave away the names of his comrades. Famously, he told his cell mate: "I will die with a smile on my face."

On November 6th, 1944, Ecury was executed. He was only 22 years old.

Ecury was buried with military honor. In 1949, the Aruban Government erected a monumental bust of him in front of what is now the linear park trail, and in 1984 he received the Resistance Memorial Cross postmortem.

Boy's life motto was this: "In my father's house, there is no place for a traitor."

**Source: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers.**

## Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names

**Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.**

With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history behind it that gives it life and meaning.

### Anabui/Tierra Del Sol

This neighborhood can be seen on Van Raders map and Werbata as Anna Boei. Anna Boei is a name of which there isn't much information about its origin.

The best historians were able to deduce is that this name came to be because of a miscommunica-

tion between Van Spengler and the natives who were living on the island. In the Arawak/Taino language one can find the word Anaiboa, which consists of Ana meaning flower or the best and Iboa; the juice of a cassava, which together would mean "the best juice of a cassava".

If one assumes that the actual word heard was Ana-boio instead, consisting of Ana meaning the best and Boio (bohio); house, the iteration of Anabui would mean "the best house." This

is the origin that has been more or less speculated and assumed for the word Anabui and it's meaning.

During the second world war and later, this area was used as a terrain for training of shooting by militia and latero n Korps Mariniers (the marines of Aruba). By the end of the previous century a large part of Anabui was developed to have luxurious villas and a golf course, which lead to it getting the name Tierra Del Sol, Spanish for Land of the Sun. The name is not an official

name, but the name of the development project that took place. It is hoped that the original and 'old' name of Anabui is never lost and now it will be remembered by both locals and tourists.

### Angochi

This name can be seen on the Werbata map with little and cursive letters. It is the unofficial name for the area given by a tenant to the land that was rented to him.

The biggest probability that historians believe is that it

comes from native descent, during the time in the 19th century where Mestizos still lived on Aruba. The name can't really be explain and according to books on its history seems to be more of a sign of corruption.

However, it seems to come from combining A(n), which is a generalizing prefix and Goeiza, which means 'the spirit of a living man'. Angochi remains more of a guess.

**This neighborhood's abbreviation is; An.**





# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

## ACROSS

- 1 Kismet  
5 Angel's topper  
9 Whoop it up  
10 Geriatrics study  
12 Portents  
13 Bulgaria's capital  
14 Poland's capital  
16 Spinning toy  
17 Different  
18 Greece's capital  
21 Ruby of film  
22 Isn't color-fast  
23 Hold up  
24 Some tourneys  
26 Ewe's mate  
29 Austria's capital  
30 Domesticated  
31 Neither Dem. nor Rep.  
32 Czech Republic's capital  
34 France's capital  
37 Celeb roster  
38 Unadorned  
39 Parking penalties

## DOWN

- 40 Not at home  
41 Luggage attachments  
1 Like mares and fillies  
2 Reluctant  
3 Keyed up  
4 Snow Queen in "Frozen"  
5 Possesses  
6 In the past  
7 Raised  
8 Burger toppers  
9 Did galley work  
11 Apertures  
15 Geography class prop  
19 Pekoe and oolong  
20 "You there!"  
22 Noggin  
23 Singer Henley  
24 Toy-filled target  
25 Change, as boundaries  
26 Furious  
27 Entertains  
28 Gets together  
29 Bigwigs  
30 Shire of "Rocky"  
33 Flat floater  
35 S&L offering  
36 Cloud setting

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## Saturday's answer

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5-6

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-6

## CRYPTOQUOTE

AJQ, AUMH ZDJT JTQ UZDHM

AUTZD UK ZDH QHJM, LJTZF

RF ZU KHHB AUFZ JBYIH.

— KHTTHB DRCFUT

Saturday's Cryptoquote: YOU MUST LEARN TO BE STILL IN THE MIDST OF ACTIVITY AND TO BE VIBRANTLY ALIVE IN REPOSE. — INDIRA GANDHI

# Cruise ship Schedule: November 22 - 30 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
FRI	22	OCEANIA INSIGNIA	07.00	13.00	C	1
SAT	23	ROYAL CLIPPER	10.00	18.00	B	1
		AIDAPERLA	09.00	22.00	C	1
SUN	24	JEWEL OF THE SEAS	07.00	17.00	C	1
		EURODAM	08.00	17.00	B	1
		FREEWINDS - DEPT.	****	22.15	E	-
TUE	26	CELEBRITY REFLECTION	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	C	1
		WIND STAR	06.00	15.00	G	1
		MSC DIVINA	08.00	22.00	I	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
WED	27	SEVEN SEAS GRANDEUR	10.00	22.00	I	1
		OCEANIA INSIGNIA	07.00	16.00	B	1
		EMERALD PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C	1
SAT	30	EXPLORER OF THE SEAS	16.30	****	C	1
		CORAL PRINCESS	08.00	17.00	B	1

# Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

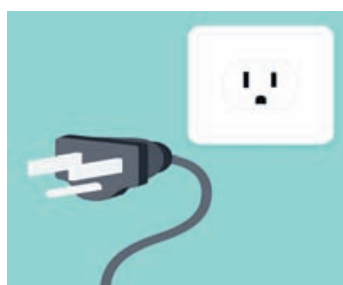
## Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

## Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

## Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

## Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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24/7



## Cutting in line? American Airlines' new boarding tech might stop you at now over 100 airports



A passenger talks on the phone with American Airlines jets parked behind him at Washington's Ronald Reagan National Airport in Washington, Jan. 25, 2016.

Associated Press.

By WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS

AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Sneaking a little ahead of line to get on that plane faster? American Airlines might stop you.

In an apparent effort to reduce the headaches caused by airport line cutting, American has rolled out boarding technology that alerts gate agents with an audible sound if a passenger tries to scan a ticket ahead of their assigned group. This new software won't accept a boarding pass before the group it's assigned to is called, so customers who get to the gate prematurely will be asked to go back and wait their turn.

As of Wednesday, the airline announced, the tech-

nology is now being used in more than 100 U.S. airports that American flies out of. The official expansion arrives after successful tests in three of these locations: Albuquerque International Sunport, Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and Tucson International Airport.

The initial response from customers and American employees "has exceeded our expectations," Julie Rath, American's senior vice president of airport operations, reservations and service recovery, said in a statement. She added that the airline is "thrilled" to have the technology up and running ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday.

American got lots of attention when it unveiled its gate-control testing last

month. Analysts say that isn't surprising.

It's no secret that line cutting in airports hits a nerve. Whether intentional or not, just about every air traveler has witnessed it, noted Henry Harteveldt, an airline industry analyst with Atmosphere Research Group. It can add to frustrations in what can already be a tense environment, with particular anxiety around passengers wanting to sit together or rushing for some overhead bin space. Harteveldt doesn't see American's recent move as "shaming" customers who cut the line. "What it is intended to do is bring order out of chaos," he said. "And I hope it will defuse any potential flare ups of anger (from) people who simply think they're entitled to board out of turn .... It's just not fair."

Harteveldt added that he thinks this change will en-

hance the experiences of both customers and gate agents. Others say more time will tell.

Seth Miller, editor and founder of air travel experience analysis site PaxEx.aero, said he can see the benefits of more orderly and universal gate-control enforcement, particularly for airlines. □



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2 Bed Oceanside \$24,000  
2 Bed Ocean view \$22,500  
2 Bed Garden view \$17,500  
3 Bed Ocean view \$34,000  
WK 51 Ocean view \$65,000  
WK 52 Ocean View \$65,000  
WK 7 and 14 - all views

### GOLD SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront \$18,000  
2 Bed Oceanside \$14,000  
2 Bed Ocean view \$13,500  
2 Bed Garden view \$12,000  
3 Bed Ocean view \$30,000

### Marriott Aruba Ocean Club PLATINUM SEASON

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2 Bed Ocean view \$29,000  
1 Bed Ocean front \$21,000  
1 Bed Ocean View \$17,000

### GOLD SEASON

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1 Bed Ocean View \$11,500

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## Actor Jonathan Majors' ex-girlfriend drops assault and defamation lawsuit against once-rising star

By PHILIP MARCELO  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Jonathan Majors' ex-girlfriend has dropped her assault and defamation lawsuit against the once-rising Hollywood star after reaching a settlement.

Lawyers for Majors and Grace Jabbari agreed to dismiss the case with prejudice, according to a joint filing in Manhattan federal court Thursday.

Jabbari's lawyer said Friday that the suit was "favorably settled" but declined to elaborate.

"Grace Jabbari has exhibited tremendous courage throughout this very long and difficult process," attorney Brittany Henderson said in a statement. "We hope that she can finally put this chapter behind her and move forward with her head held high."

Representatives for Majors didn't respond to emails seeking comment Friday.

Jabbari, in her lawsuit filed in March, accused the 35-year-old Marvel and "Creed III" star of subject-



Jonathan Majors arrives at EBONY Power 100 on Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024, at nya studios WEST in Los Angeles.  
Associated Press.

ing her to escalating incidents of physical and verbal abuse during their relationship, including assault, battery, defamation and infliction of emotional distress.

The British dancer filed the suit months after Majors was convicted of misdemeanor assault and harass-

ment in connection with an altercation in Manhattan.

During a fight that began in the backseat of a chauffeured car before spilling out into the streets, Jabbari said Majors hit her head with his open hand, twisted her arm behind her back and squeezed her middle

finger until it fractured.

Majors claimed Jabbari had flown into a jealous rage and was the aggressor and that he was only trying to regain his phone and get away safely.

Majors avoided jail time but was ordered by a judge in April to complete a year-long counseling program.

Following the guilty verdict, Majors was immediately dropped by Marvel Studios, which had cast him as Kang the Conqueror, a role envisioned as the main villain in the entertainment empire's movies and television shows for years to come.

Majors and Jabbari had met in 2021 on the set of Marvel's "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania" in which Majors played Kang and Jabbari served as a movement coach.

Majors has slowly re-emerged on the Hollywood scene in recent weeks.

His long-shelved film "Magazine Dreams" was acquired for theatrical release last month.

The bodybuilder drama had garnered early Oscar buzz for Majors, but was dropped by its distributors following his conviction last December.

Then earlier this month, Majors and fellow actor Meagan Good announced their engagement at the Ebony Power 100 Gala in Los Angeles. □

## Iran's vast collection of Western art, much long hidden, re-emerges despite high tensions with US

By MEHDI FATTAHI and JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

**TEHRAN, Iran (AP)** — As Iran faces increasing tensions with the West and turmoil

at home, a new exhibition at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art is displaying Western artwork including pieces not seen by the public in at least a

decade.

The unveiling of the exhibition "Eye to Eye" has drawn numerous women, their hair uncovered, to the underground galleries of the museum in Tehran's Laleh Park. Their presence, while unacknowledged by authorities, shows the way life has changed inside Iran just in the last few years even as the country's theocracy presses forward with enriching uranium to near-weapons grade levels and launching attacks on Israel during the ongoing Mideast wars.

"The first feeling that came to me, and I told my parents, was that I can't believe I'm seeing these works, which have always been kept far from our eyes," said Aida Zarrin, a young woman at the museum.

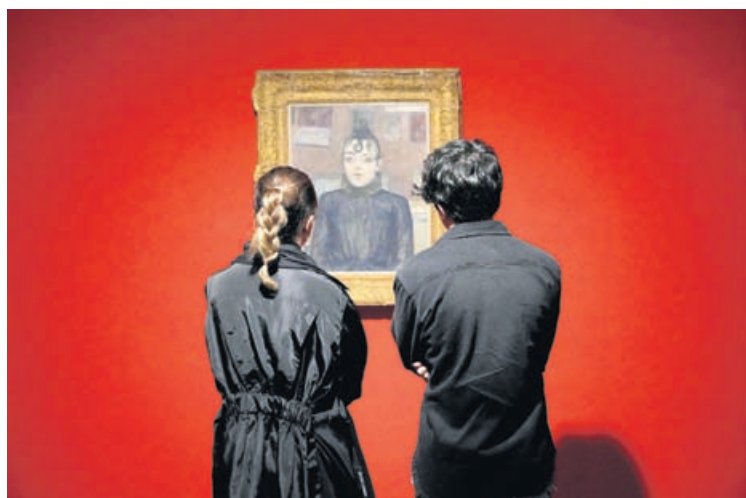
"If such events are held here and we can see artworks like the rest of the world, it's enough. They are really precious."

The government of Iran's Western-backed shah, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, and his wife, the former Empress Farah Pahlavi, built the museum and acquired the vast collection in the late 1970s, when oil boomed and Western economies stagnated. Upon opening, it showed sensational works by Pablo Picasso, Mark Rothko, Claude Monet, Jackson Pollock and other heavyweights, enhancing Iran's cultural standing on the world stage.

But just two years later, in 1979, Shiite clerics ousted the shah and packed away the art in the museum's vault. Some paint-

ings — cubist, surrealist, impressionist and even pop art — sat untouched for decades to avoid offending Islamic values and the appearance of catering to Western sensibilities. Nearly everything is believed still to be there, though an Andy Warhol print of the empress was slashed during the revolution.

Today, the collection is likely worth billions of dollars. Even with Iran now cash-strapped under Western sanctions, officials with the museum have been able to advocate for keeping the collection, though there have been occasional trades in the past for items from Persian history. Those sanctions may increase under the next administration of U.S. President-elect Donald Trump. □



Visitors look at a painting by the French artist Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec while visiting an exhibition titled Eye to Eye which showcases over 120 works by modern world artists as well as Iranian painters at Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, in Tehran, Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024.

Associated Press.



# Denny Hamlin 'shocked' to learn that No. 11 team will get a new crew chief for 2025 NASCAR season

By STEVE REED

AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) —

Denny Hamlin said he was "shocked" to learn that he'll have a new crew chief in 2025.

Joe Gibbs Racing announced that Chris Gayle will serve as the crew chief for Hamlin's No. 11 team, with Chris Gabehart being promoted to competition director. Gayle has served as crew chief for JGR's No. 54 team for the past two seasons.

The new crew chief for the No. 54 team will be announced at a later date.

Hamlin said he didn't ask for a change of crew chief and appeared to be still digesting the news as he addressed reporters at the Charlotte Convention Center ahead of Friday night's NASCAR awards ceremony.

"They have to do what is best for the company," Hamlin said. "I think they are looking for improvements on the 54 and they are looking for an overall improvement from all of the teams because we haven't had the amount of races as an organization as we should have."

Hamlin said he has liked what he's heard about Gayle's style and thinks he'll "add a new flavor" to the No. 11 team.

"I think it was a the easiest choice since he has been a part of the program already," Hamlin said.

Both Gabehart and Gayle have been mainstays at JGR for a number of years, and both led their teams to the Cup Series Playoffs and top-15 finishes in the overall point standings.

"We have a lot of pride in the depth of talent we have throughout our organization," JGR owner and founder Joe Gibbs said. "Chris Gabehart will now be an asset across all four of our teams as competition director and we thought it was important to have him transition into his new role immediately. Chris Gayle will bring his own perspective to the 11 team



NASCAR auto racing driver Denny Hamlin speaks ahead of the NASCAR awards ceremony in Charlotte N.C., Friday, Nov. 22, 2024.

Associated Press.

while also maintaining the consistency and continuity they have developed with Denny (Hamlin) over the past several years."

Gayle has won two Cup Series races, 37 Xfinity Series wins and the 2022 Xfinity Series championship since joining JGR as an engineer in 2003.

Gayle moved into a crew chief position in 2013 with JGR's Xfinity Series team. In four seasons, his teams won 20 races.

He spent 2017 as a crew chief for Furniture Row Racing before rejoining JGR in 2018 in the Cup Series with Erik Jones. He led the young driver to his first career win in 2018 and followed that up with a Southern 500 victory in 2019.

Gayle guided JGR's No. 54 Xfinity Series team and won 10 races with four different drivers.

Gayle also led Ty Gibbs to seven victories and the series championship before they moved to the Cup Series in 2023. Last season, Gayle oversaw the No. 54 team's growth in Gibbs' second season, earning eight top-five finishes, 12 top-10s and two pole awards while leading 417 laps.

Gayle said he is looking forward to working with Ham-

lin, whom he called "a first-ballot Hall of Famer."

"He and Gabehart have established an incredible culture that is a very good barometer for our other drivers and teams to strive to match," Gayle said. "I have all the confidence in the world we can hit the ground running and continue the success that this group is accustomed to in 2025."

Gabehart joined Joe Gibbs Racing in 2012 as a race engineer before transitioning to crew chief with the team's NASCAR Xfinity Series program from 2016-18.

He spent three seasons there, earning nine victories with multiple drivers.

Gabehart was promoted to be the crew chief of the No. 11 team in 2019. The Hamlin-Gabehart combination proved to be a threat immediately by winning the 2019 Daytona 500 on the way to three consecutive Championship 4 appearances. Gabehart and Hamlin won 22 races in six years, including two Daytona 500s.

"I am very thankful for the opportunities that Joe Gibbs Racing has continued to provide me for my entire tenure here and cannot say enough about how much I have enjoyed

and appreciated my time with Denny and the entire 11 team," Gabehart said. "They have all taught me so much about not only how to race at the top of the NASCAR Cup Series, but also, how to lead a great group of talented professionals. In my next opportunity, I am as excited as I have ever been to work with all our talented drivers, crew chiefs, teams and partners to help focus all our efforts towards making 2025 one of the best seasons Joe Gibbs Racing has ever had."

## Bullish on Bullins

RFK Racing announced that veteran crew chief Jeremy Bullins has joined the organization, reuniting with driver/co-owner Brad Keselowski to lead the No. 6 team beginning in 2025. Bullins, who has been a part of 31 wins, joins RFK after a decade-plus stint in the Cup Series with Wood Brothers Racing and Team Penske, working with drivers Ryan Blaney, Keselowski, Austin Cindric and Harrison Burton.

"I'm excited and grateful for the opportunity to work with BK again, this time in the iconic No. 6 car with RFK," Bullins said.

"We were able to accom-

plish a lot as a team previously, but we had a couple of unfinished goals like a Daytona 500 win and a championship together and I'm ecstatic we get the opportunity to compete together again."

He most recently led the No. 21 team, earning the organization's famed 100th victory at Daytona this summer.

Previously, he was paired with Cindric and the No. 2 team, which came on the heels of Keselowski's departure from Team Penske at the end of the 2021 campaign. Together, Bullins and Keselowski finished second in the 2020 points standings, and won five races in the Cup Series in the 2020-21 seasons.

23XI Racing expands to 3 cars

The 23XI Racing team will have three Cup Series cars in 2025.

It's newest driver will be Riley Herbst, who recently concluded the Xfinity Series season driving the No. 98 car. Herbst will drive the No. 35 Toyota Camry for the team co-owned by Michael Jordan.

Herbst joins veteran teammates Bubba Wallace and Tyler Reddick in the 23XI racing stable.

Herbst has 175 starts in the Xfinity Series since 2018 with three career wins and playoff appearances in four of his five full-time seasons. His first career win came in the fall race last season at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, his home track.

"Having worked with Riley in the past, we have watched his growth over the last several seasons in the NASCAR Xfinity Series," said Tyler Gibbs, general manager of Toyota Racing Development.

"We look forward to Riley rejoining the Toyota family and supporting him to achieve his goals next year and into the future."

Martin Treux Jr.'s 500 plans  
Martin Truex Jr. said he still has plans to race the Daytona 500 in February, but said it likely won't be with 23XI racing. □



# Conor McGregor must pay woman \$250K in sexual assault case, civil jury rules

By **BRIAN MELLEY**  
**Associated Press**

LNorthern California gets record rain and heavy snow. Many have been in the dark for days in Seattle McGregor shook his head as the jury of eight women and four men returned the verdict after deliberating for about six hours in the High Court in Dublin. He was mobbed by cameras as he left court but did not comment.

McGregor testified that he never forced the woman to do anything against her will and said she fabricated the allegations after the two had consensual sex.

The woman's voice and hands trembled as she read a statement outside the courthouse, saying she would never forget what happened to her but would now be able to move on with her life. She thanked her family, partner, friends and all the supporters that had reached out to her online, but particularly her daughter.

"She has given me so much strength and courage over



**Nikita Hand, who is also known as Nikita Ni Laimhin, center, speaks with the media outside the High Court in Dublin, Ireland, Friday, Nov. 22, 2024, after a civil jury found that mixed martial arts fighter Conor McGregor sexually assaulted her in a hotel penthouse after a night of heavy partying.**

the last six years throughout this nightmare to keep on pushing forward for justice," the woman said. "I want to show (her) and every other girl and boy that you can stand up for your-

self if something happens to you, no matter who the person is, and justice will be served."

Her lawyer told jurors that McGregor was angry about a fight he had lost

in Las Vegas two months earlier and took it out on his client.

"He's not a man, he's a coward," attorney John Gordon said in his closing speech. "A devious coward and you should treat him for what he is."

The woman had to take several breaks in her emotional testimony as she said McGregor threatened to kill her during the encounter.

A paramedic who examined the woman the next day, testified that she hadn't seen someone with that intensity of bruising.

McGregor put her in a chokehold several times and later told her, "now

you know how I felt in the octagon where I tapped out three times," referring to an Ultimate Fighting Championship when he had to admit defeat, she said.

She feared she would die and never see her daughter again.

"He let me go and I remember saying I was sorry, as I felt that I did something wrong and I wanted to reassure him that I wouldn't tell anyone so he wouldn't hurt me again," she said.

She said she then let him do what he wanted and he had sex with her.

Police investigated the woman's complaint, but prosecutors declined to bring charges, saying there was insufficient evidence and a conviction was unlikely.

McGregor said the two had sex that was athletic and vigorous, but not rough. He said "she never said 'no' or stopped" and testified that everything she said was a lie. "It is a full blown lie among many lies," he said when asked about the chokehold allegation.

"How anyone could believe that me, as a prideful person, would highlight my shortcomings."

McGregor's lawyer told jurors they had to set aside their animus toward the fighter.

"You may have an active dislike of him, some of you may even loathe him there is no point pretending that the situation might be otherwise," attorney Remy Farrell said. □

**Associated Press.**

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**Mixed martial arts fighter Conor McGregor outside the High Court in Dublin, Ireland, Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024.**

**Associated Press.**